

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2171

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1033

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, YO, GE

SUBJECT: 1975 YUGOSLAV-GDR TRADE PROTOCOL

1. BELGRADE DAILIES OF MARCH 5 REPORT CONCLUSION HERE
OF 1975 TRADE PROTOCOL BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND GDR UNDER
WHICH VALUE OF TRADE EXPECTED TO REACH 500 MILLION DOLLARS.

2. PRINCIPAL YUGOSLAV EXPORTS WILL BE AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS, RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, ELECTRICAL
EQUIPMENT, IRON, STEEL AND ALUMINUM PRODUCTS, CHEMICALS,
TIMBER PRODUCTS, FREIGHT CARS, STEAM BOILERS AND MACHINE
TOOLS. PRINCIPAL GDR EXPORTS WILL BE MACHINERY AND
EQUIPMENT, CHEMICALS, POTASSIUM FERTILIZER, IRON AND
STEEL PRODUCTS, PRECISION, OPTICAL AND MEDICAL
INSTRUMENTS.

3. YUGOSLAVIA WILL EXPORT AUTOMOBILES TO GDR FOR FIRST
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TIME --1000 FIAT "ZASTAVA" CARS--AND WILL, AS USUAL,

IMPORT ABOUT 5000 EAST GERMAN WARTBURG CARS.

4. TALKS ARE REPORTEDLY UNDER WAY ON COOPERATION IN AREAS OF ZINC AND COPPER PRODUCTION.

5. COMMENT: 1974 TRADE WAS PROJECTED TO REACH 350 MILLION DOLLARS, BUT ACTUAL TOTAL WAS ONLY 308 MILLION DOLLARS--PRACTICALLY NO GROWTH IN REAL TERMS OVER 250 MILLION DOLLARS OF 1973. YUGOSLAVS COMPLAINED THAT EAST GERMANS WERE SLOW IN MACHINERY DELIVERIES, INSUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED IN COOPERATION IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, INSISTED ON RETAINING CLEARING SYSTEM (IN CONTRAST TO POLAND, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA WHICH SWITCHED TO HARD-CURRENCY SETTLEMENT) AND DECLINED TO PERMIT TOURISM TO YUGOSLAVIA "OTHER THAN FOR A HANDFUL OF PRIZE-WINNERS." COMMUNIQUE IS STRANGELY SILENT ON PREVIOUSLY OFTEN-MENTIONED ISSUES OF (A) FURTHER EAST GERMAN CREDITS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF YUGOSLAV ALUMINUM INDUSTRY (HUNGARIANS HAVE GIVEN 42 MILLION DOLLAR CREDIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF OBROVAC ALUMINA PLANT, IN WHICH EAST GERMANS PREVIOUSLY SHOWED INTEREST), AND (B) PROSPECTIVE 30 MILLION DOLLAR CREDIT FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN MACEDONIA.
TOON

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